

We claim:

1                   1. A system for processing funds transfer transactions from a  
2                   customer of a financial institution, the system comprising:

3                   a first processor receiving a bulk file from the customer, the bulk  
4                   file containing a plurality of funds transfer transactions, the first processor  
5                   grouping the plurality of funds transfer transactions into funds transfer  
6                   transactions requiring a foreign exchange operation, denoted as foreign exchange  
7                   funds transfer transactions, and funds transfer transactions not requiring a foreign  
8                   exchange operation, denoted as same currency funds transfer transactions;

9                   a second processor coupled to the first processor, the second  
10                  processor receiving the same currency funds transfer transactions not requiring  
11                  a foreign exchange operation from the first processor, the second processor  
12                  generating first funds transfer instructions in response to the same currency funds  
13                  transfer transactions;

14                  a funds transfer processor coupled to the second processor, the funds  
15                  transfer processor receiving the first funds transfer instructions from the  
16                  second processor and executing the received first funds transfer instructions by  
17                  transferring funds to a funds transfer processor of another financial institution;  
18                  and

19                  a trading processor coupled to the first processor, the trading  
20                  processor receiving the foreign exchange funds transfer transactions from the first  
21                  processor, the trading processor executing a foreign exchange operation in  
22                  response to the received foreign exchange funds transfer transactions.

1                   2. The system according to claim 1, wherein:

2                   the trading processor is coupled to the second processor,

the trading processor forwarding to the second processor the foreign exchange funds transfer transactions and funds resulting from the foreign exchange operation,

the second processor generating second funds transfer instructions in response to the foreign exchange funds transfer transactions and funds resulting from the foreign exchange operation, and

the funds transfer processor receiving the second funds transfer instructions from the second processor and executing the received second funds transfer instructions by transferring funds to a funds transfer processor of another financial institution.

3. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - a link coupling the first processor to a system of the customer, wherein the customer system transmits the bulk file to the first processor.

4. The system according to claim 3, further comprising:  
a firewall disposed in the link coupling the first processor to the customer system.

5. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - a market link from the trading processor to a foreign exchange market, wherein the trading processor receives real time foreign exchange rates over the link.

6. A method for processing funds transfer transactions from a customer of a financial institution, the method comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a bulk file from the customer, the bulk file containing a  
4 plurality of funds transfer transactions;

5 grouping the plurality of funds transfer transactions into funds  
6 transfer transactions requiring a foreign exchange operation, denoted as foreign  
7 exchange funds transfer transactions, and funds transfer transactions not requiring  
8 a foreign exchange operation, denoted as same currency funds transfer  
9 transactions;

10 executing a foreign exchange operation in response to the foreign  
11 exchange funds transfer transactions to thereby generate available funds; and

12 settling the foreign exchange funds transfer transactions using the  
13 available funds.

1 7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps  
2 of:

3 generating funds transfer instructions in response to the same  
4 currency funds transfer transactions; and

5 settling the same currency funds transfer transactions in response  
6 the funds transfer instructions.

1 8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step  
2 of:

3 separating the received bulk file into its component funds transfer  
4 transactions, the component funds transfer transactions including the foreign  
5 exchange funds transfer transactions and the same currency funds transfer  
6 transactions.

1                   9. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step  
2 of sending an acknowledgments to the customer upon receipt of the bulk file and  
3 upon the settlement of the funds transfer transactions.

1                   10. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step  
2 of grouping the foreign exchange funds transfer transactions into batches  
3 according a market in which the foreign exchange operation is to take place.

1                   11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step  
2 of validating the format and contents of the batches.

1                   12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step  
2 of validating the format and contents of the foreign exchange funds transfer  
3 transactions contained in the batches.

4                   13. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step  
5 of aggregating the foreign exchange funds transfer transactions contained in the  
6 batches according to a currency of the foreign exchange operation.